

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 538. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS, PARENTS,
TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, parents, teachers and administrators of the Wake County Public School System, many of whom are in Washington today to accept the National Energy Development Project's "School District of the Year" award.

The National Energy Development Project, or "NEED," is a nonprofit education association dedicated to advancing the understanding of the scientific, economic, and environmental impact of energy. This year, after reviewing more than sixty submissions from across the Nation, the NEED National Award's Review Panel chose to recognize Wake County's public schools for their unique and outstanding work.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the students and faculty of the Wake County Public School System. Energy independence and combating global warming are two of the most important and challenging issues confronting our Nation. In the coming years, the goals we set and the choices we make in this area will have profound, irreversible consequences for our Nation and our planet.

More than ever before, America needs informed, innovative and energy-conscious leaders at every level of society. I congratulate the Wake County Public School System for rising to this challenge so impressively, and I commend them, and all the public school systems that participated in this program, for their commitment to this ideal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 499: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2563.

(2) Rollcall No. 500: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 151.

(3) Rollcall No. 501: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 233.

TRIBUTE TO PETER RENDINA, JR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a man I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call a close personal friend and trusted advisor, Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr. Pete is being recognized on Friday, June 22, by his colleagues, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Paterson Public Schools.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to the students of our great city. Through his years of teaching history and social studies especially, he has shown countless students the magnificence and power of our great Nation and democracy in action.

Pete is a lifelong resident of Paterson. He is a graduate of School 18 and an Eastside High School Ghost. After graduation, Pete went on to continue his education at Jersey City State University, earning his degree in elementary education, working as a substitute teacher in the Paterson school system while continuing on his studies. After graduation, he became a full-time member of the Paterson Board of Education team. Since then, he has worked with many different grade levels, and taught a variety of courses. In the following years, Pete returned to Jersey City State, earning his Masters degree in Urban Education, Administration and Supervision. Soon he was serving as an adjunct professor, first at Upsala College and Passaic County Community College (PCCC), and later at Seton Hall University as well.

He has circumvented the educational bureaucracy that constricts many teachers and earned the admiration and trust of his pupils. The respect he has earned from his students is unprecedented and unmatched. He serves not only as an educator but also as a mentor; he helps his students to handle not only the academic rigors of high school, but also the many other challenges they face.

All the while, Pete has been living the lessons he teaches. His students learn about our government from someone who works in the field directly. Whether it was the 2 years he spent working as Congressman Herb Klein's district administrator, or the many years since that he has served as a special aide to me, he has been involved in the day to day affairs of our great government. His students have the benefit of learning civics from a teacher who works in the field and lives it first hand.

In addition to his work in the classroom, he has made his mark as a coach and athletic director. Pete has coached softball, basketball, football, track and volleyball on the high school level. On the collegiate level, he has led the men's basketball teams at both PCCC and William Paterson College, and served as the athletic director at PCCC. His talent for motivating his athletes to perform to the best of their ability and reach their goals makes him a successful coach. Just as when he is in the classroom, his mentoring skills with his players enable them to succeed on and off the field.

Outside of his profession, Pete has contributed greatly to the Passaic County community

in a civic role. He has served as the president of the Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School Board of Education, as a member of the board of trustees of the PCCC Foundation, and as commissioner of the Passaic County Board of Social Services.

His contributions to education, in Paterson and beyond, cannot possibly all be listed. Most importantly, he is a personality who, in every sense, cannot be replaced. I value his friendship and know that although he is retiring from teaching, his service to his community will continue.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of educators like Peter Rendina. I applaud the Eastside High School family for honoring Pete, and join them in wishing him a fantastic retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Eastside High School Ghost family, the Paterson Board of Education, Pete's family and friends, all those whose lives have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to close down the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It is time to stop and examine our history so that we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Our relations with our neighbors in Latin America are at their lowest ebb ever. The people of Latin America think the U.S. is more concerned with achieving goals through military means no matter the consequences. They think the U.S. is not concerned with human and democratic rights in Latin America. We need to start winning over the citizens of our planet and show them our desire to bring human rights to everyone.

The time has come for our country to cease our support of this Institution, to put down the swords, and instead show our neighbors in Latin America that our actions adhere to our preaching. U.S. assistance has been increasingly weighted towards harsh and ineffective counter-narcotics and military aid.

After so many decades of human rights abuses and threats to democracy, why is the U.S. Government still giving so privileged a position to Latin American militaries, such that it maintains a special school in the United States just for them? Our neighbors need assistance for clean water, vaccinations for children, micro-credit, technical assistance for small farmers and small business, shelter for